



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held January 22, 2008, the Board took the following action:

19

The following item was called up for consideration:

The Chief Executive Officer's recommendation to adopt the "County of Los Angeles' Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program," which provides the framework for implementing voluntary single use bag reduction and recycling by the County, and large supermarkets and retail stores, with the Program to include specific goals for the reduction of carryout plastic bags and preparation of an ordinance to ban such plastic bags in County unincorporated areas if reduction goals are not met by prescribed deadlines; instruct the Chief Executive Officer, in partnership with the Directors of Public Works, Internal Services, Public Health, and the Sanitation Districts, and key stakeholders, including large supermarkets and retail stores, the plastic bag industry, environmental organizations, and recyclers, to implement the voluntary Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program by July 1, 2008 that: promotes reusable bags; reduces the use of disposable plastic bags; increases at-store recycling of plastic bags; increases post-consumer recycled content of paper bags; and promotes public awareness of litter impacts and consumer responsibility; instruct County Counsel, in consultation with the Chief Executive Office, Public Works, Internal Services, Public Health, and the Sanitation Districts, to complete by April 1, 2009, a draft ordinance banning plastic carryout bags at large supermarkets and retail stores upon completion of any necessary environmental review in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and receive and file the report entitled, "An Overview of Carryout Bags in Los Angeles County."

(Continued on Page 2)

Also consideration of Supervisors Burke and Yaroslavsky's recommendation to instruct the Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program Work Group to take the following actions; and instruct the Chief Executive Officer to send a five-signature letter and draft resolution to all Mayors, City Managers and Councils of Governments within the County requesting their participation in the Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program:

- a) Report back to the Board by July 1, 2008 on a plan for integrating convenience stores and other appropriate franchise stores whose cumulative square footage exceeds 10,000 sq ft into the Program by July 1, 2009, consistent with the County's adopted goals; and
- b) Consider the following approaches when verifying the data that will be included in the Disposal Rate Measurement: a manifest system; tipping fees; third-party verification; County verification; and ensure that a draft framework is made available to stakeholders for review prior to adoption.

Also consideration of Supervisors Antonovich and Knabe's recommendation as presented on the Supplemental Agenda, to direct the Chief Executive Officer, working with the Director of Public Works and County Counsel, to prepare an ordinance for the Board consistent with the staff recommendations in Alternative 5 which recommends implementing a voluntary "Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program," and incorporate the following revisions:

- 1. Reduce the benchmarks in Alternative by 5% (2010 benchmark reduced from 35% to 30% and 2013 benchmark from 70% to 65%);
- 2. With respect to the one-year extension if benchmarks are not achieved, reduce "forgiveness" rate from 5% to 3%;
- 3. Change the completion date of a draft ordinance banning plastic bags from April 1, 2009 to April 1, 2010, with an understanding that staff will initiate and complete the required California Environmental Quality Act review in advance of the 2010 target date; and
- 4. Direct staff to provide quarterly progress reports to the Board of Supervisors and interested stakeholders.

(Continued on Page 3)

Jennifer Forkish, spokeswoman for the California Grocers Association; Mark Gold, President of Heal the Bay; and other interested persons addressed the Board.

Richard Weiss, Assistant, County Counsel; Donald Wolfe, Director and Paul Alba, Senior Civil Engineer, Department of Public Works answered questions posed by the Board.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

“Each year, six billion single-use plastic carryout bags are consumed by residents Countywide. A significant number become litter since they are lightweight and easily windblown, ending up in our waterways, the ocean, our streets, our parks, and our open space. This has led to a serious detrimental impact on our quality of life, our natural environment and the County’s recreational economy. Because plastic carryout bags contribute disproportionately to the litter stream, making up as much as 20% of the litter collected, it has also resulted in significant costs to residents.

“To reduce the number of plastic bags littered, Assembly Bill 2449 requires, among other things, plastic carryout bags to have the following words imprinted, ‘please return to a participating store for recycling.’ Although this recycling message is important, we can and must do more to raise consumer awareness of the environmental impacts associated with littered plastic bags. By making consumers more aware of the problem, consumers would be motivated to use reusable bags more often, thereby ensuring the success of the Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program.

“I therefore recommend that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Instruct the Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program Work Group to develop an environmental awareness message to be imprinted on each plastic carryout bag distributed by large supermarkets and retail stores describing the negative impacts littered plastic carryout bags have on the environment and wildlife, and the need to use reusable bags. This environmental awareness message would be a required feature under Alternative 5, Large Supermarket and Retail Store Responsibilities, Item 3;

(Continued on Page 4)

2. Instruct County Counsel, with input from the Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program Work Group to explore the development of an ordinance mandating the environmental awareness message described above to be imprinted on each plastic carryout bag distributed by, at a minimum, large supermarkets and retail stores in the unincorporated County areas; and
3. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to include in the 2007-2008 State Legislative Agenda the sponsoring or pursuit of legislation to amend the provision of Assembly Bill 2449 (Section 42252(a) of the Public Resources Code) to also require an environmental awareness message imprinted on each plastic carryout bag describing the negative impacts littered plastic carryout bags have on the environment and wildlife, and the need to use reusable bags. Currently, Assembly Bill 2449 only requires plastic carryout bags to have the following words imprinted, 'please return to a participating store for recycling.'"

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Burke, for consideration of his foregoing motion for Board approval.

After further discussion, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a suggestion to divide the question.

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Knabe, Antonovich and Burke; Noes: Supervisors Molina and Yaroslavsky, Supervisors Knabe and Antonovich's recommendation, regarding Alternative 5 which recommends implementing a voluntary "Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program, was approved.

(Continued on Page 5)

19 (Continued)

Furthermore, on motion by Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Molina, Yaroslavsky, Knabe, Antonovich and Burke; Noes: None, the Chief Executive Officer's aforementioned recommendation, including Supervisors Burke and Yaroslavsky's amendment on the posted agenda and Supervisor Yaroslavsky's amendment introduced at the meeting, were approved.

07012208\_19

Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Executive Officer
- County Counsel
- Chief Engineer and General Manager
- County Sanitation Districts
- Director of Health Services
- Director of Internal Services
- Director of Public Health
- Director of Public Works

(ALSO SEE BOARD ORDER NO. 18 THIS DATE)